

A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
ROYAL MARINES

By Lt.-Colonel Markham Rose Royal Marine Artillery

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N I S T O R Y

### ROYAL MARINES.

BY

LT.-COLONEL MARKHAM ROSE,
ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY.

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The Author would be pleased to receive suggestions and corrections for further editions.

A Series of Lantern Slides has been prepared, to illustrate two similar lectures entitled "A Short Record of the Royal Marines," Part I to 1805, and Part II to 1900, written by Colonel C. Field, R.M.L.I. (Retired), which can be obtained from any Depot of Naval Lantern Lectures.

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### THE STORY OF THE MARINES.

## A Lecture for Recruits. "Esprit de Corps."

There is a French expression that probably most of you have often heard used, but which you may not exactly understand, though we trust that you all feel what is understood by it. It is "Esprit de Corps"; and it means that living, or fighting power, which is gained by every individual man of a regiment, or body of troops, by a belief in his corps—a loyalty to its past history, a general hanging together in trouble and standing by one another for the good of the corps; further that whatever success is gained by any one member of the corps, will be rejoiced in and shared by all others. It expresses that real feeling of comradeship, which is so great a help to success in war. No better compliment can be paid to any soldier than that of the Duke of Wellington, when he pinned a decoration on a guardsman's breast:—

"The regiment will be proud of you"—and no better answer than the soldier's:—

"And I am proud of the regiment."

That is "Esprit de Corps" in as few words as possible It is a feeling which must always be encouraged within proper limits: and to help to develop it properly, it is a good thing that every recruit should know the story of the Corps to which he belongs.

#### The Corps of Royal Marines.

The Corps of Royal Marines is a Military body specially organised and trained for service in the Fleet as well as on shore; it is raised and supported by Naval Funds, and constitutes an important part of the Naval forces of the Country. In other words the Marine is a soldier, trained in the first place, at the Depot, entirely as a soldier, and for fighting ashore; but this training is only a commencement.

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He is a soldier intended and designed for the purposes of the Navy, and so after he leaves the Depot, he commences the second part of his training in gunnery and general preparation for embarkation as part of the Fleet.

After the recruit has been thus instructed, he goes to a seagoing ship, serves most of his time in a ship, and becomes an essential part of the Navy: yet always remains the "specialist" in Military work on board, just as other members of the ship's company are "specialists" in seamanship, gunnery, stoking, etc., etc. Of the two branches of the Corps, the R.M.A. are the "specialists" in gunnery, though all the best gunners of the Light Infantry are now trained to be "specialists" in gunnery too.

Remember then these two points:-

- i. You are a "soldier" trained specially for the Fleet.
- ii. Although a "specialist" in Military work, you, like all other specialists are trained for the general work of the ship, and to bring about the perfect efficiency of the British Navy, and that is the main reason for the existence of the Corps.

#### The present strength of the Corps.

The present strength of the Corps is about 17,000 men, but the number varies from year to year according to the requirements of the Fleet. The Royal Marine Artillery, numbering about 3,000 have their Headquarters at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. The three Royal Marine Light Infantry Divisions have their Headquarters respectively in the barracks at Chatham, Gosport and Plymouth; with a Depot for training recruits at Deal. There are included in the grand total a number of bandsmen trained for ship's bands, who for the last few years have become a definite part of the Corps, replacing the old separate rating of Naval Bandsmen, and who were on foreign stations as a rule Maltese, Italians or of some other nationality.

#### Why soldiers serve on board ship.

What is the history of this idea of having soldiers to serve on board ship?

Previous to the reign of Charles II, it was not the custom to maintain standing armies in time of peace. Armies were only raised on the outbreak of war and had little or no training for the fight. This was equally the case with the Navy. There was practically no difference between the man-of-war and the merchantman; for in times of peace merchant ships had to carry guns to safe-guard themselves against the pirates who infested the Mediterranean and other seas, and both guns and ships were so simple in construction that no complicated fittings were required for war.

Similarly as to the Officers. When a fleet had to be constituted or a Naval expedition despatched, the command was probably given to some celebrated soldier of the time, who took soldier officers as his Captains and to fill other posts on board, and the majority of the men were soldiers. Each ship however had a "Master" who navigated her; and there were a certain number of seamen, but these would be raised at random without previous fighting training and with no discipline.

#### Commencement of the Marines.

With the introduction of standing armies in the reign of Charles II, and as early as the year 1664, a regiment was raised by the Admiralty, and paid for out of Naval funds. It was called the "Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot."

In 1668 the Foot Guards were drafted to sea, and in 1684 the 3rd Regiment of the Line was called the "Maritime Regiment of Foot," and also the "Admiral Regiment." In 1694, King William III authorised the formation of two Marine Regiments, exclusively for seaservice, and this might be called the most distinct commencement of the Royal Marines. After this when more men were required, fresh regiments were formed, or already formed regiments were embarked as Marines; and also from time to time when the strength of the Navy

was reduced, battalions of Marines were formed into regiments of the line. Hence in the Army to-day you find many regiments who were first raised as Marines.

#### Press Gangs. Value of the Marines.

During the whole of the eighteenth century and right up to the middle of the nineteenth, when a ship commissioned, or to fill up casualties in the Fleet, it was frequently necessary to resort to the press-gang. This meant sending ashore in the home ports an armed party of Marines or seamen who captured any likely hands they found about the town and brought them off to serve compulsorily in the Navy. Sometimes also prisoners were liberated from the gaols on the condition that they would serve in the Fleet.

With crews of this sort, it can be imagined that there was a great lack of discipline, at any rate on first commissioning; and so we can see how valuable it must have been to be able to march well disciplined Marines down to the Fleet, or even a line regiment, and draft its companies to different ships to fill up the crews and to help to maintain order.

#### Loyalty of the Marines.

In connection with the above there are two important points in our history.

- i. In case of mutiny the Officers naturally looked to the soldiers—the Marines—to stand by them and remain loyal. In the whole history of the corps, lasting now for three hundred years, the Marines though often tempted by the malcontents, have never mutinied. This record of loyalty and devotion it is our duty to preserve unbroken to the end.
- ii. It is due to this ancient reason, that the "barracks" or part of the mess-deck given up to the Marines, is always nearest to the Officers' mess, or between the Officers and the rest of the ship's company. Although the necessity for this work has happily passed away, yet this custom is still kept up in the Navy, even in the "Dreadnought" where

all the mess-decks are aft, instead of forward as in other ships.

#### Why the custom of embarking soldiers was discontinued.

Now it was evidently inconvient, as standing armies and navies began to grow, to have this interchange between Army and Navy. A regular corps of Naval Officers was formed during the 17th century, and it no longer became customary to send Generals and Colonels to command Fleets and ships, so the Generals, etc., objected when their regiments were taken away for sea-service. Hence the Admiralty decided to have their own Marines, whom they could order on board as they pleased, and could train in duties affoat.

#### System of pay under the old scheme.

As we have seen, the Maritime Regiment was first placed under the Admiralty for pay ashore and afloat by Order in Council of the 25th February, 1691, but the system of pay was very different from that at present in force. Whilst serving on board ship, the men were borne on the books on a distinct list and were paid there, as likewise on shore, by the Captains of their respective companies, who received the pay from the Colonels of their regiments.

#### Period with no Marines.

The number of regiments under the old-scheme serving afloat varied very much from time to time, and at the close of 1748, in consequence of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the force was totally disbanded.

However, the continuity was not entirely lost, for many of the Officers placed on half pay in 1748 were re-appointed to the Corps, when, on the next outbreak of hostilities, in 1755. Marines were again required. They were then established on something of their present footing, and the Corps has had a permanent and continuous existence since that date.

#### Gibraltar.

The most conspicuous service of the old regiments serving as Marines has given us the word "Gibraltar."

When Gibraltar was taken by Admiral Sir George Rooke in 1704, a party of Marines were landed on the isthmus to cut off the garrison from the mainland, and burned some vineyards which might have covered a sortie.

Shortly after the Rock had been captured, it was hotly beseiged by the allied French and Spaniards. The garrison consisted of 6 battalions of Marines, and it was in their noble and successful defence, during the next two years, that the corps first gained an immortal honour.

After the siege most of the Marines were formed into

line battalions.

Before leaving this old interchange between Army and Marines, there are two interesting points to touch on.

Marching through London.

The Royal Marines, the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards and "The Buffs" (the 3rd, now the East Kent Regiment, and originally the "Admiral Regiment") are alone entitled to march through, or in, the City of London, with fixed bayonets, colours flying and bands playing. The reason being that the first Maritime Regiments were formed from the Trained Bands of the City of London. The nickname of the men of the old Trained Bands was "Jollies."

At Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, a battalion R.M.A., to keep the street by St. George's Circus, and a Guard of Honour R.M.L.I. for St. Paul's Cathedral, fell in on the Horse Guards Parade and marched up the Strand. Outside Temple Bar they were halted, and bayonets were fixed, and then they marched right through the City with bands playing and colours flying amidst a turnultous applause from the enormous crowds. The streets were already packed, and lined with battalions who had been directed not to salute troops passing for the same purpose, but under the circumstances an exception had to be made for the Royal Marines, and our men, on a very hot and trying day, had to march all through the City with shouldered arms a fairly trying effort, but no one

felt the fatigue under the applause and the special circumstances.

#### The "Young Buffs."

One of the battalions of Marines that had helped in the defence of Gibraltar, was removed to Ireland in 1704, and at Dublin in 1714, their designation was changed to that of the 31st Foot, now the 1st Batt. East Surrey Regt. But they are linked with the Corps in another way. While the 31st were on passage to India in 1825 on board the "Kent." East Indiaman, the ship was destroyed by fire in the Bay of Biscay. Nearly all were saved and brought to Chatham, and housed by the Chatham Division. In remembrance of this hospitality the Officers of the Chatham Division were made permanent honorary members of the mess of the 31st; in later times the privilege was extended to all Marine Officers, and the East Surrey Regiment Officers are honorary members of all Marine messes. The mutual friendship is not confined to the Officers only, and when the Marines were at Aldershot in 1905 they were most hospitably entertained by the 31st; and afterwards a party of this battalion paid a visit to Forton.

A privilege allowed to Naval and Marine Officers is that they may drink the toast of the reigning sovereign after dinner sitting down, a privilege which is said to have at least three different origins, decks too low to stand up, sea too rough, etc. Well, the 31st still, alone of all soldiers, drink "The King" sitting down, in

remembrance of their origin as Royal Marines.

#### The Marine Divisions.

When it was found necessary to raise Marines again in 1775, they were put on very much the existing footing. The three divisions at Chatham. Portsmouth & Plymouth were established, and these three have gone on continuously ever since, though the strength of the corps has varied very much, being about 6,000 in 1775 and rising to 31,000 in 1815. A division was started at Woolwich in 1805, when the strength of the corps was increased to some 30,000 men.

#### The Laurel.

The first distinction granted to the newly constituted Marines was the Laurel Wreath which was given to it as its distinctive badge after the splendid fighting put in at Belleisle in 1761.

#### The 18th Century.

England was at war through nearly the whole of the 18th century and in all the wars the corps was fighting "Per Mare per Terram," which four Latin words mean "By Sea and Land." It did especially good work in the war of American Independence, notably at the battle of Bunkers Hill.

#### Manchester Marines and Prize Money.

In 1793, on the outbreak of the long war with France. a large number of extra men were required for the Fleet. and the City of Manchester patriotically decided to raise a body of Marines at its own cost. By an offer of six guineas bounty, 1327 Marines were thus raised in the year. Some of these shared in the capture of the French Frigate "L'Ambuscade," and of a Spanish Galleon for which they got no less than £200 a head prize money, so they were well rewarded for their patriotism.

#### Royal Artillery.

The Royal Artillery have a motto somewhat similar in its idea to ours. "Ubique quo fas et gloria ducunt." which means "Everywhere where duty and glory lead," but their total actions scarcely equal ours for we have had the advantage of sharing in all the fights at sea. Yet the Royal Artillery have had some part in this too. In the war against the French Republic (1793-1802), it was found that the untrained crews swept on board our ships needed more gunnery instructors, and these were supplied by drafting Royal Artillerymen for the duty.

#### The Royal Marine Artillery.

But the Navy soon found the same objection to this, that they had done in the earlier days to the regiments lent from the Army to serve as Marines, and so Nelson asked the Admiralty to form a branch of the Marines

to serve as Gunnery Instructors on board the Ships. By Order-in-Council of 18th August, 1804, the R.M.A. were first established, the Officers being taken from the general list of the Corps, and for many years there was no separate Artillery division, but only Artillery companies attached to different divisions.

#### The Royal Marines.

But before this foundation of the Royal Marine Artillery a glorious distinction had been granted to the Corps. For their loyalty during the mutinous days at the Nore, and their gallantry in the different actions in the war against the French, on the 29th April, 1802, the Corps, by Royal Command, was styled "The Royal Marines," and the White facings were changed to Blue.

At this period the uniform consisted of small, round, shiny hats with the brim looped up on either side, and a worsted tuft on the left, red jackets with very short tails, white breeches, and black cloth gaiters coming

to the knee.

#### 1815 to 1834.

About the end of the wars against Napoleon, in 1815, the Royal Marines had reached their highest numbers. and during the long peace that followed, they were gradually reduced. Still they were fighting wherever fighting had to be done for their Country, sharing in Lord Exmouth's bombardment of Algiers in 1816 and the battle of Navarino in 1827.

#### Napoleon on board H.M.S. Bellerophon.

There is a picture extant showing Napoleon L. after Waterloo, when he surrendered on board H.M.S. Bellerophon, inspecting the Guard of Marines, and commenting on the English bayonets.

#### The Globe.

It was in this latter year, 1827, that\*H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence, Colonel of Marines (afterwards William IV), presented new colours to the Chatham Division, and announced that his Majesty George IV " Has selected for

<sup>\*</sup>Note H.R.H. William Henry, Duke of Clarence, K.C., &c., appointed General of H.M. Royal Marine Forces, March 17th, 1824.

you a badge which you have honourably earned, the great Globe itself, as your most proper and most distinctive badge." His Majesty also ordered that his cipher was always to be borne on the Colours as well as that of the reigning sovereign.

#### The Colours.

We have now seen the reason for most of the designs, etc., on the colours.

Line Regiments have on their colours the names of the battles in which they have fought, but this plan would be impossible for the Royal Marines as there would be no room for them on any single flag. The corps has been represented in nearly 400 sea fights, in addition to about 80 important operations on shore. Hence the list is replaced by the "Globe" and "Per Mare per Terram"; ideas which fairly include the scenes of the different actions in which the Corps has engaged. "Gibraltar" is retained as the earliest great distinction, and the "Laurel" was specially granted for Belleisle.

It should not be assumed from existing customs that the R.M. colours have never been taken into action. It is believed that colours presented in 1810 and another set presented in 1812 were carried in the Wars in the Peninsular, in America and Canada where two battalions R.M. were serving at about that period. Further R.M. colours were undoubtedly taken by the R.M. Battalion to Mexico in 1861 and to Japan in 1863.

#### The Russian War, 1854-55.

Royal Marines shared in the trying trench work before Sevastopol, in the cruel winter of 1854-55; a battalion was engaged on the day of Balaklava, and had checked the enemy just before the Light Brigade gained immortal glory, and lost most heavily in the soldiers' battle "Inkerman."

It will be remembered that the Victoria Cross was first instituted at this time and Marines were amongst the earliest recipients. Bombardier Wilkinson, R.M.A., was granted a V.C. for placing sandbags in one of the batteries in the trenches under a very galling fire; and

Corporal Prettyjohn, R.M.L.I., for placing himself in

an advanced position and killing 4 Russians,

Nor were these the only cases. A British Fleet moved up the Baltic in 1855, and of course the Marines shared in all the fighting, the R.M.A having charge of Mortars in the Mortar Boats, in one of which Lieut. Dowell, R.M.A. especially distinguished himself and received the V.C.

#### Royal Marine Light Infantry.

During the Russian war, in February, 1855, the Corps was granted the appellation of "Light Infantry," because their training resembled that of Light Infantry regiments. Hence the bugle, the badge of Light Infantry regiments, on the Cap badge of the Red Marines. It should be realised that in those days Light Infantry differed from other battalions as they carried out their drill movements at the double, and were trained to act more especially as skirmishers who at that time replaced the firing line of to-day in moving to the attack; so to be trained as Light Infantry was considered a great distinction.

This left the title of the Corps as the "Royal Marines Light Infantry" the title which is still round the buttons. At this time there were still only Artillery companies attached to the Infantry divisions, and no

separate R.M.A.

#### Reorganisation of the Royal Marines.

An Order-in-Council of the 21st March, 1862 established the present organisation, and divided the Royal Marines into two distinct Corps under the designation of the Royal Marine Artillery and the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Remember there were then four divisions of Infantry, one each at *Woolwich*, Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth, but the Woolwich Division was abolished in 1869, and the old Marine Barracks there are now

occupied by a Line regiment.

#### Chatham and Plymouth.

The Chatham, or 1st Division, have always occupied their present quarters. The Plymouth Division moved into their Barracks in 1783, prior to which they were in billets in the Barbican, and used to parade on the Hoe.

#### Forton.

The Portsmouth Division used to be in Portsmouth itself at the Old Clarence Barracks, since demolished; and it was transferred to Forton in 1848.

#### Eastney Barracks.

The Marine Artillery did a good deal of moving about before they finally settled down in Eastney Barracks.

In 1815, there was an Artillery Company at each of the four R.M. Head Quarters. In 1816, these four Companies had been assembled at Chatham, but in 1817 their Head Quarters were at Fort Monkton, and the number of companies eight. In 1823 they were at Chatham. When formed as a separate Corps the R.M.A. were first quartered in the Old Gunwharf Barracks at Portsmouth, and Southsea Castle, and a company being at each Infantry Division; then they were moved to Fort Cumberland, and lastly to the new barracks built for them at Eastney in 1866.

#### Position in Line.

The position in line, or order of precedence of Corps in the Army for the Royal Marines, is that the R.M.A. will take the left of the Royal Artillery, and the Royal Marine Light Infantry come after the Royal Berkshire Regiment. This position is derived from a Horse Guards Order of 1820:—"His Majesty has been graciously pleased to command, that the Royal Marines, when acting with the troops of the Line, shall take their station next to the 49th Regiment." The 1st Battalion of the Berkshire was the old 49th Regt., and the reason of this position is probably due to the fact that the ten Regiments of Marines raised in 1739 and 1740 and disbanded in 1748, were numbered from the 44th to the 53rd Regiment; and so 49th is a middle position of the last numbered Regiments of Marines. Also at this date (1820) there were about 100 Line Regi-

ments, and so between 49th and 50th was a middle position.

An interesting point might be added here, namely that in many ceremonial parades and processions the Royal Marines form part of the Naval Contingent, as they have so often done on active service. As such they take precedence of all troops, being preceded only by the Bluejackets. As a notable example, the Coronation procession of our Colonel, H.M. King George V, in the present year (1911).

#### The Depot.

The Depot at Deal was first opened for the training of recruits in 1869. The barracks had been formerly used for cavalry, but they have been considerably enlarged from time to time especially in 1896.

#### R.M. Artillery Recruits.

For many years all Marine Recruits, Artillery and Infantry, were trained together in the recruits course at Deal, but following a large increase to the Corps in 1896 the Artillery recruits were removed to Eastney, where they have been trained since September, 1897.

#### Continuous Service Seamen.

From the middle of the 19th Century the duties of the Corps had been changing somewhat in character. Shortly after the Crimean War. continuous service was established for the seamen of the Navy. From 1859 onwards training ships for boys were established; and the blue-jackets became highly skilled seamen, well disciplined men, and

many of them expert gunners.

Thus, two reasons for the existence of the Marines lessened in degree. Firstly they were no longer absolutely needed to teach discipline to unruly seamen. Secondly the R.M.A. were not needed to teach gunnery, for the continuous service seamen soon had gunnery instructors of their own. Still the Marines held their place, and in all the small wars which year after year alone broke the peace of the Empire, the Marines showed the world how brave, well-trained sea-soldiers could fight on shore, notably in Burmah, New Zealand, Abyssinia, Ashantee, Zululand and in China. There was also a large party of

Marines in the Naval Brigade which did splendid service in the Indian Mutiny.

#### China.

In the middle of the 19th century there was constant fighting in China, and Marines were engaged either as a part of the Fleet, or as distinct battalions in the wars in 1840-42, 1846, and 1854; in constant fighting from 1856 to 1862 and several small actions afterwards. There was a Marine Brigade in China from 1858 to 1862; the largest body of Marines under their own Brigadier ever employed independently.

The Wars in Egypt.

Alexandria was bombarded by the Fleet in June 1882. After the bombardment serious rioting broke out in the town but this was soon quelled by the Marines who were landed for Police work; and a battalion R.M.A. and a battalion R.M.L.I., took part in the succeeding campaign against Arabi, which culminated in September in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

Both branches formed part of the garrison of Suakin in 1884-5, and took part in all the fighting in the Eastern Soudan of those two years; the R.M.L.I. sent a large party to be attached to the Guard's Camel Corps in the "Relief of Gordon" expedition up the Nile, where

they saw much hard fighting.

In succeeding years, small selected numbers, mainly Officers and N.C.O's., shared in the fighting which led to the re-conquest of the Soudan.

#### Special incidents of the Egyptian Wars.

At Kassassin (1882), the Marine Artillery helped the Horse Artillery with two of their guns in a hot day's fighting; afterwards took a Krupp gun from the Egyptians, which they used to the end of the campaign. Again in 1884, they took a Soudanese gun, which they used against the enemy.

The Light Infantry Battalion was one of the first in the Tel-el-Kebir entrenchments, and lost several Officers

and Men in the rush forward.

In the fight at Tamaai, in the Eastern Soudan in

1884, one of the squares had completely broken under the Arab charge, but the Marines standing firm did much to save the situation.

It is said that the great rallying cry, which held the Gosport men together was a cheery shout from their Major "Portsmouth men. rally!"

#### Marines as Police.

From December, 1882 to July, 1883, selected men from each division were used in rather a peculiar manner. Dressed in plain clothes, they were sent to Dublin in a time of considerable disturbance, to act as Police. They accredited themselves of their novel mission so well that they received the public thanks of the Viceroy.

#### The Crofters.

A few years later they were two or three times employed in similar work to quiet the Crofters who were giving trouble in Skye.

So well did they succeed that the crofters were sorry when they left, and several interesting weddings were

contracted.

#### Rudyard Kipling.

The great writer, Rudyard Kipling, celebrated all this 19th century work of the Corps in brilliant verse under the title "Soldier and Sailor too!" Everyone should read this. Such lines as:

An' after I met 'im all over the world, adoing all kinds of things, Like landin' hisself with a Gatlin gun, to talk to them 'eathen kings.

and:=

But they're camped and fed, and they're up and fed, before our buglers blew, Ho! they ain't no limpin' procrastitudes, soldier and sailor too!

will always remain in one's memory. I believe the last two lines refer particularly to the Egyptian War in 1882, when our men, camped next to the guards, not only did their own camp work but lent the Guards a hand as well when they were in difficulties. The poem is humorous for the most part, but pathetic when it talks of the:—

"The sinking Victoria's Jollies" and draws a lesson for us all, from the detachment which then calmly fell in in their usual place on the Quarter Deck of the sinking battleship.

But to stand an' be still to the "Birkenhead" drill, is a damned tough buillet to chew, And they done it, the jollies, 'er Majesty's jollies, soldier and sailor too?"

#### Further changes in the Navy, close of the 19th Century.

But with the "Victoria" class, and all later ships, times again were changing. Masts and yards had disappeared and there is now no longer sail-drill aloft, so that the serman is daily becoming more of a soldier—is trained in almost the same way as the Marine. The ship of war has become a mere mass of complicated machinery, and the heavy gun has become the weapon which is to decide the battle. A peaceful war has been raging for the last few years between gunlayers as to the best shot of the Navy and between Fleets, as to the best record in Battle Practice, and still the Marine has held his own, though it is necessary to strain every nerve to do so. Yet he can do it, and will do it, and the British Navy has still the same need of his help as ever to maintain its prestige among the nations of the world.

#### Fluctuations in Strength.

According to state of War or Peace during the last century the total strength of the Corps has varied

considerably.

In 1837 it had dropped to 9,000 of all ranks; but by 1855 it had risen again to 16,000; and in 1860 to 18,000. A period of peace gradually lowered it again to 12,400 in 1881, and then it gradually rose again to an establishment of 19,800 at the close of the South African War in 1903.

#### The 20th Century.

This then is now the high mission set before the recruit; to keep up the glorious traditions handed down to him; to be on board his ship at one and the same time the well disciplined handy man, the skilled gunner and the trained soldier; ready to go anywhere and to do anything.

Marines to-day are also employed in all the latest

work of the Navy, are Wireless experts, Signallers Clerks, Butchers; and are employed in every kind of trade in which they may show themselves of use; can pull and sail a boat, and, in short are met all over the world "Adoing all kinds of things."

There is scope for every one of you to use your own particular talent, whatever it may be, for the service

of the Navy, the Country and the King

#### South Africa and China.

Representatives of the Corps ended the last century in a blaze of glory. 190 Marines formed part of the Naval Brigade which earned the title of "The Bravest of the Brave" in their victorious advance up the slopes of Graspan. The little body of Marines were the heaviest sufferers, having all their Officers but one killed or wounded, and with a 44 per cent, list of casualties, pushed steadily to the top.

This Naval Brigade continued with the land forces in Lord Roberts' victorious advance to Bloemfontein, and eventually to Pretoria. Many other Marines, Officers and men, shared in the operations in South Africa to

the close of the war.

Meanwhile there was hard fighting in China in 1900. Seventy-five R.M.L.I. were the only British troops concerned in the defence of the Legation at Pekin, which was another "feather in our cap," gained for us a V.C. for an Officer, and Distinguished Conduct decorations for N.C.O's, and Men. Marines also shared with credit in the relief expedition and combined operations.

#### Yarns.

This brings our history practically up to date, but the story would not be complete without a few yarns.

The Marine has so far entered into the past 200 years of history that many expressions connected with him are part of our present day language.

#### A Marine, not a "Dead Marine."

Perhaps the oldest is that of calling an emptied wine bottle "A Marine."

The Duke of Clarence, an Admiral in the Navy, afterwards William IV, used this expression at a dinner party, and a Colonel of Marines who was present looked annoyed, but the future King skillfully explained "He has done his duty once, and is ready to do it again." Could higher praise be given?

#### Tell that to the Marines.

"Tell that to the Marines" is sometimes said with a sneer, as though it meant that only a Marine would be credulous enough to believe anything, but Major Drury has shown us that even this is a compliment. It is a high test of truth; for, if an old marine who has served his country in every part of the World, will believe a varn, then indeed it must be true. A great cartoon in "Punch," represents Mr. Goschen, then 1st Lord of the Admiralty, "Telling to the Marines on board H.M.S. Taradiddle, the determination of Her Majesty's Government—as a concession to the prejudices of the Continental Powers-to evacuate Egypt at an early date. probably the 1st April, 1897." The picturesque faces of the Guard of Marines, fallen in on the Quarter Deck, on receipt of the news, is in itself a great contradiction to the idea that the expression is a slur on our credulity.

#### "Joey" or "Jolly."

While the bluejacket is always called Jack, the Marine is similarly known as Joe or Joey, formerly a Jolly Marine or a Jolly. Jolly has the historic origin that it was the name applied to the men of the old Trained Bands who provided the first Marines; and Joey is probably simply derived from it.

A very old Naval song tells the pathetic history of poor Joe the Marine, and Dibden composed several

songs about the Marines.

#### Lobsters.

Lobster is a very old name for a soldier and the R.M.L.I. are the "Red Marines," "Lobsters," and the R.M.A. are "Blue Marines," or "Unboiled Lobsters," for obvious reasons.

#### Leather Neck.

"Leather Neck" is a term generally use l by the Navy to describe any soldier, owing to a leather stock which was formerly served out to each man, and which fastened round the neck to the tab inside the collar; and a blue-jacket will often say "Take my sea boots off your neck," meaning to imply that a fragment has been cut off his boot to serve the purpose. The present tab on frocks and tunics is a relic of the stock."

#### Grabby.

A cavalry soldier often refers to an Infantryman as a Grabby," and not knowing the origin of the term, the seamen often used to call a Marine a "Grabby," thinking that the nickname meant any kind of soldier.

#### Horse Marines.

This reminds one of the often used expression "Horse Marine" to give an idea of an incongruity, but in spite of the absurdity of mounted men on board ships, there is a real origin for the expression and Marines have often carried out mounted duties ashore.

In the Dutch war, in the time of Charles II, the Lifeguards supplied a detachment of 200 men to do duty as Marines in the Fleet; but I believe that the origin of the expression is that somewhere between 1790 and 1800 a squadron of the 11th Light Dragoons were embarked in the "Hermion?" to act as the Marine detachment.

In 1744, Lieut, Graham of the Marines so distinguished himself in the action between his ship, the "Lion," and the French ship "Elisabet," that "He not only gained the approbation of My Lords, but through their instrumentality was rewarded with a troop in the 14th Dragoons."

In 1864, a detachment of Marines was landed from the "Challenger" at St. Vincent in the West Indies, and mounted on horseback to assist the authorities in putting down a negro insurrection.

In later times Marines have been employed as Mounted Infantry; and though a camel is not exactly

a horse, it has already been related that Marines served in the Camel Corps. A Sergeant, R.M.A., was in command of a galloping gun attached to the Cavalry division in the Boer War, 1900; and N.C.O's.. Marine Artillery, were employed to teach the Maxim Gun to the Field Artillery in the same war.

#### Battle of Hernani.

In the Officers' Mess at Eastney is a picture of a field battery in action during the battle of Hernani, in the Carlist War in Spain in 1837. This same picture shows a battalion of Red Marines engaged with the Carlists, and their effective service on this day received the highest praise.

#### Female Marines.

In the 18th century at least one woman, Hannah Snell, served for many years in the Marines, seeing fighting both on board ship and on shore. In one action she fired no less than 37 rounds, and was wounded eleven times, being carried off badly hurt. When her sex was disclosed, she received a pension of £30 a year She then started a Public House, the sign of which bore on one side the figure of a soldier and on the other that of a sailor, whilst underneath was written "The Widow in Masquerade, or the Female Warrior." She is said to have done a roaring trade.

In 1761, a woman called Hannah Whitney, was imprisoned at Leeds for desertion. It was shewn that she had been a Marine for upwards of five years, and would not have discovered her sex if she had not been detained.

#### Peculiarities in Marine Uniforms.

It has long been a custom in the Corps to indicate mourning by wearing a piece of crape round the third button of the Tunic or Frock.

#### Braid on Drummers' Tunic.

Formerly, it was the custom for the Drummers of all regiments to wear different braids ornamented with a regimental badge, but now the Drummers of Line regiments all wear white lace with a red crown device, and the Drummers of the Foot Guards a white lace with a blue fleur de lys; while the R.M.L.I. have a white lace with a Blue Rose, presumably the York Rose, because of their origin from the Duke of York's Maritime Regiment. (The design is not a Turtle, as has been humorously suggested as emblematical of Landand Sea employment).

#### Bugle Cords.

The R.M.L.I. Bugle Cords are green, a Light Infantry colour, while the R.M. Artillery have the Royal Colours, Red and Blue for their cords.

#### Differences in Uniform at Divisions.

Two divisional bands have distinctive marks in their

cap badges.

The Forton Band has the Prince of Wales' Plumes in commemoration of their accompanying His Late Majesty King Edward VII, when he was Prince of Wales, in his visit to India; and the Chatham Band wear the York Rose in remembrance of their trip round the World with our Colonel, our present Gracious Majesty King George V, when he was Duke of York.

The R.M.A. Bundsmen have also a special cap-badge which they wear when embarked in the Royal Yachts. They, together with a special R.M. Guard of Honour, have at present (autumn 1911) the distinguished service of accompanying Their Majesties in the "Medini" in their Coronation Visit to India.

All N.C. Officers at Forton, i.e., Corpls, and Lee.-Corpls, as well as Sergeants, wear their side-arms in walking-out dress. The reason of this I don't know.

#### Majors of Marines.

In every Line Regiment there are "Mounted" Majors and "Mud" Majors, the latter being still in command of companies. The Marines have more kinds, for a Captain of over eight years' service, when embarked, ranks as a Major, and is known as a "Rope Yarn" Major. There are Brevet Majors for length of service,

and, as in the line, Brevet Majors for Distinguished War Service.

After the Bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, all Captains then in command of detachments were given a Brevet, and known in the Corps as "Bombardment Majors."

Generally, too, in the Ward Room, any Captain Commanding a Detachment is addressed as "Major" (just as any Subaltern in the same society is spoken to as "Soldier,") while the Senior Sergeant of a Detachment is always termed the "Sergeant Major," and the Lower Deck generally abbreviates this title to the "Major."

#### American Marines.

The only Continental Nation which has Marines in the Navy on the same lines as our own, is the United States. They have many similar badges, and are much inclined to "chum up" with us when we meet their Fleets They have fought alongside us in China, and as they say "Blood is thicker than water."

In 1909, the United States Navy Department decided to withdraw the Marines from the U.S. War Ships, but after a short trial and a detailed inquiry into their work on board, it was discovered that they were too valuable to be spared, and they were fully reinstated in their former position, and their numbers have gone up with the increase of the U.S. Fleet.

#### Conclusion.

This is a very very short history of the Corps indeed, and many volumes might be filled with its doings which practically all redound to its credit. As you see on the front page of the "Globe & Laurel," Lord St. Vincent one of our greatest Admirals in the long French wars, wrote at the time:—"There never was any appeal made to them for honour, courage or loyalty, that they did not more than realise my highest expectations. If ever the hour of real danger should come to England, the Marines will be found the Country's Sheet Anchor."



#### Questions for Recruits on Uniform, &c.

- Q. Who is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps?
- A. His Most Gracious Majesty King George V., who was appointed in 1902, when he was Prince of Wales.
- Q. Why is there an anchor on all the uniform buttons?
- A. Because Marines are soldiers trained for the Navy and paid by the Admiralty; and the Anchor is the Admiralty badge. There is a bit of cable round it making it the "Foul Anchor" of the Admiralty Badge.

\*This foul anchor as an R.M. badge is very old, as it is found in the front of a mitre-shapel cap at Forton, which is believed to have belonged to an officer of the Regiments raised in 1702, and it is certainly antecedent to Belleisle as there is no laurel.

- Q. Why is there a crown?
- A. Because it is a Royal Corps, the title of Royal being granted for distinguished service and steadfast loyalty during the wars against the French Republic, and during the times of the mutiny at the Nore.

Q. Why do you find the "Globe" surrounded by the words "Per Mare Per Terram" on the Helmet Badge?

- A. Because Marines to-day as in the past are serving all over the World, and both afloat and ashore.
- Q. What do the words "Per Mare Per Terram" mean? A. "By Sea and Land," and whereas regiments on
- A. "By Sea and Land," and whereas regiments on their colours and in representation in their badges, commemorate great actions in which they have taken part, the Marines have so often been in fights that it would be impossible to give them all, and so they are summarised in the idea that they have fought all over the World by sea and land.
- Q. Why then is the badge surmounted by the word "Gibraltar."?
- A. Because the Defence of Gibraltar from 1704 to 1706 was one of the most important and one of the earliest achievements of the Corps.

- Q. Why is the whole surrounded by a "Laurel"?
- A. Because the Laurel was the ancient award for victory. Conquerors in ancient times were crowned with a Laurel Wreath. It was granted to the Corps for their gallant work at Belleisle in 1762.
- Q. Why is there a Bugle surmounting the cap badge (R,M,L,I, only)?
- A. Because the "Bugle" is the badge of "Light Infantry," which distinction was conferred on the Corps after the Russian War, 1854-5.
- Q. Why is the "Grenade" always found on badges, buttons, etc., of the R.M.A.?
- A. The "Grenade" is the usual military badge of an Artilleryman.
- Q. What colour are your facings?
- A. "Blue" in the Infantry, "Scarlet" in the Artillery.
  This distinction is alone granted to a Royal Corps or
  Regiment.
- Q. There are no "Facings" to the new Marine Infantry Kersey. How is the Royal indicated;
- A. By the initials "R.M.L.I." on the shoulder strap.
- Q. Why have you slashings on the back of your tunic and on the cuff?
- A. In the old days the buttons on the back of the tunic were for buttoning up the tails of the coat, so that they did not interfere with marching, etc.; and those on the cuff for turning up the sleeves. They are worn now in remembrance of the olden days.
- Q. What is the pattern on Lace of Drummers' Tunic?
- A. It is singular to Royal Marines, and is believed to be the York Rose in commemoration of the fact that the first Marines were the Duke of York's Maritime Regiment.

- Q. What is meant by "Esprit de Corps"?
- A. "Esprit de Corps" is that living or fighting power which is gained by every individual man of a regiment or corps by a loyalty to its past history, by a general hanging together in trouble and by standing by one another for the good of the Corps.

FINIS.



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